(e) what steps Government propose to take to ensure timely rotation of employees to check any nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (e) Department of Personnel and Training has not issued any general guidelines laying down any specific time limit for the Central Government officers to remain posted at one place in the Ministry/Department etc. Different Departments of the Government have formulated their Department specific schemes which lay down the post tenure and station tenure of various civil service posts keeping in view the availability of man-power, functional needs, financial constraints and sensitivity of posts. It is left to the individual Departments to enforce these orders and grant extension of station/post tenure in public interest or on compassionate grounds. Further, the Recruitment Rules of some posts which are notified by the President in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission or by the individual Departments also prescribe the post tenure of each post. The Central Staffing Scheme also prescribes the tenure and the cooling off for various posts of and above the level of Under Secretary. In the case of selection made by the UPSC on transfer on deputation basis, further extension is granted by the concerned Departments in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission.

Development on Inter State River Basins

*353. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's draft water policy favours legal measures for development of inter State river basins as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 22nd March, 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that country's total annual requirement of fresh water from various sectors is likely to be 1,050 billion cubic meters by 2025 A.D. as against the current demand of 600 billion cubic meters; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take/include in its "National Water Policy" so as to meet India's demand for fresh water in the new millennium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Realising the importance and scarcity attached to the fresh water, the draft National Water Policy emphasises that the fresh water has to be treated as an essential environment for sustaining all life forms. To achieve this objective, the draft policy includes practicing non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water, desalination of brackish or sea water and rain water harvesting; reforms in institutional mechanism, participatory approach to water resources management, private sector participation, maintaining water quality, performance improvement, financial and physical sustainability and Guidelines for water allocation amongst the States.

Criteria for Estimating Incidence of Poverty

*354. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to determine a new criteria for estimating the incidence of poverty for allocation of funds under the major Centrally-sponsored rural poverty alleviation programmes namely the JRY, Million Wells Scheme etc; and

(b) if so, what is the basis of determining the new criteria and reason for changing the old estimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government is not planning to revise the existing methodology for fixing poverty lines. The present criterion for determining State specific poverty lines is based on the recommendations of the Expert Group headed by Prof. D.T. Lakdawala, which was adopted by the Planning Commission in 1997. The recommendations of the Expert Group have recieved wide acceptance.

Earlier the national level poverty line for rural areas was used uniformly for all the States. In the new method, separate poverty lines have been worked out for the States using the State-specific prices. The new poverty lines are considered better as these represents the cost of a national consumption basket evaluated at State's prices, and hence capture the inter state price differential.

Until 1997-98, the funds under major Centrally-sponsored rural poverty alleviation programmes, namely, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) were allocated to States/UTs on the basis of 'Task Force estimates of poverty for 1987-88'. As the data for 1993-94 became available estimates of poverty based on these data were calculated using both the Task Force methodology and the Expert Group methodology. However, a comparison of Statewise share of poor as per Task Force for 1993-94 and as per Expert Group for 1993-94 revealed that some States were adversely affected in their respecitve share of allocation under various poverty alleviation programmes by the adoption of the Expert Group estimates. Some States which had been adversely affected represented to the Union Government on this issue. Consequently, an exercise was undertaken to work out an adjustment formula to contain the losses under the Expert Group estimates to not more than 15 per cent of their expected entitlement based on the Task Force methodology for 1993-94. These adjusted shares are presently being used for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes.

As per the decision of the National Development Council (NDC) a Committee has been set-up under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to finalise the criterion for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes.

Network of Kerosene Oil and LPG in Tamil Nadu

*355. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the network of kerosene oil and the LPG distribution in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NALTURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 5 SKO/LDO dealerships and 154 LPG distributorship have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996-98 for Tamil Nadu. As per existing policy, oil companies advertise the locations included in the approved Marketing Plans under different reserved categories in two newspapers, one an English daily and the other a vernacular daily, inviting applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria re-